



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 153

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2007

No. 146

House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, October 1, 2007, at 12:30 p.m.

Senate

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2007

The Senate met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable SHERROD BROWN, a Senator from the State of Ohio.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Spirit, guide our lawmakers today as they seek to do Your will. Deliver them from anger and envy, from harsh thoughts and unlovable actions. Use them to make a better world. Remind them that You are the only constituent they must please, for You are the Sovereign God. Inspire them to decrease that You may increase and illuminate our world with Your glory. Give them the wisdom to seek You often in prayer with grateful hearts. Lord, guard their hearts and minds with Your peace. Help them to turn their struggles into stepping stones that will glorify You. We pray in Your holy Name. Amen

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable SHERROD BROWN led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 28, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable SHERROD BROWN, a Senator from the State of Ohio, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BROWN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the Senate will begin consideration shortly of the Department of Defense authorization bill. Last night cloture was invoked on the substitute amendment. Therefore, amendments in order need to have been timely filed and be germane.

There will be no rollcall votes today, but the managers will be here to process amendments. Senator KENNEDY is here to talk about the first amendment.

The next vote will occur Monday beginning around 5:30 in the evening. This week has been a very busy week, and the Senate has successfully concluded action on a number of very important measures. Mr. President, next

week we are going to, as soon as we finish this bill, the Defense authorization bill—which will be sometime Monday night—move to Defense appropriations. Senators INOUE and STEVENS have been advised of that. They will start early Tuesday morning. We hope to complete that bill within a couple of days.

The next bill we will take up prior to our October recess will be the Commerce-Justice-State appropriations bill. If we can finish those two bills, and I think we have a real opportunity to do that, we will have completed 6 of the 12 appropriations bills.

The House has completed all of theirs. I have had a number of conversations with Chairman OBEY, with the Speaker, in an effort to get these bills—as many as we can, as soon as we can—to the President.

As you know, there is a controversy with the President over his threats to veto all of these bills. We hope he will see the wisdom of moving forward on these appropriations bills, as we hope he will on the Children's Health Insurance Program which passed overwhelmingly yesterday.

I would say that last year, for example, the President accepted bills from the Republican-dominated Congress that were \$55 billion over what he suggested. This year we are at \$21 billion and none of that is extravagant spending. Most of it are things he has cut out of the budget, so it would only keep up with inflation. For example, with the tremendous rise in crime we have all over America today—we have had a jump this last year like we have not seen in recent decades. Aggravated

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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